The details of percentage increase of price of sensitive petroleum products namely, diesel, PDS kerosene and domestic LPG during the last two years are given in the statement (*See* below). The prices of other petroleum products are market determined.

(d) and (e) While no case of any large scale pilferage of LPG from cylinders has come to the notice of the Government, the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) have reported that there have been some instances of pilferage from filled cylinders, which have been detected at their distributor's premises.

As and when complaints of pilferage of LPG are received by the OMCs, they are investigated by them and in all established cases, action is taken against the LPG distributors under the provisions of Marketing Discipline Guidelines (MDG), 2001 and/or Distributorship Agreement (DA). The MDG provide for a fine for the first two established cases of pilferage and for termination of the distributorship for the third established case against any distributor.

Statement

The details of percentage increase of price of sensitive petroleum products during the last two years.

(at Delhi)

	Petrol (Rs./Litre)	Diesel (Rs./Litre)	PDS Kerosene (Rs./Litre)	Domestic LPG (Rs./Cylinder) 14.2 kg
Retail Selling Price as on 1.8.2004	36.81	24.16	9.01	261.60
Retail Selling Price as on 1.8.2006	46.85	32.25	9.05	294.75
% Increase	27.27%	33.48%	0.44%	12.67%

Tap gas pipeline project

1598. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has now decided to consider the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan (TAP) gas pipeline project to meet its energy demands;

(b) if so, whether any concrete proposal in this regard has been prepared by the Ministry for the approval of Government;

(c) whether the Ministry of External Affairs has submitted India's acceptance in TAP and has suggested that it has long term significance going beyond pure energy needs;

(d) if so, whether India has started talks on this project with these countries; and

(e) if so, by when final decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (e) An Indian delegation led by the Minister of State for Petroleum & Natural Gas visited Ashgabat, Turkmenistan on 14-15 Februrary, 2006 to participate in the 9th Steering Committee Meeting of Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan (TAP) project as an 'Observer'. The Steering Committee invited India to become an official member of the project. The Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas brought the matter before the Cabinet in May 2006 after inter-Ministerial discussions and the Cabinet accorded 'in principle' approval to the proposal for India joining the TAP project. The matter has been taken up with the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the lead development partner for the project, to appropriately take up India's request for joining the project with the Governments of Turkmenistan, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Exploration of oil and gas

1599. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) The names of public organisations engaged in the exploration of oil and natural gas in the country;

(b) the places where the sources of oil have discovered by these organisations during the years 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06; and

(c) the possibilities of oil exploration perceived so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) The following Public Sector